THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) to (c) A suggestion about the possibility of freezing the advertisement rates of Doordarshan for a period of two years and broadening the base of Doordarshan advertisers as opposed to relying on rate increases, is contained in the Report of the Committee set up to make recommendations for increasing Doordar-shan's commercial revenue.

Interviews/Introduction of the Members of the 10th Lok Sabha

1255. SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI:

KUMARI ALIA :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to telecast interview/introductions of the Members of Tenth Lok Sabha, who have been elected for the first time;

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be telecast; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons there for?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) to (c) Doordarshan has already telecast interviews with some Members of Parliament who have been elected for the first time to the Tenth Lok Sabha. Telecast of interviews with other such Members of Parliament would depend upon the programme exigencies of Doordarshan.

Fixed time slots for Private Producers

1256. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the private producers are likely to have fixed time slots on the four metropolitan channels of Doordarshan;

(b) if so, whether any decision has Been taken in this regard; and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are also con sidering any proposal to telecast Door darshan Programmes for people across the borders; and

(d) if so, when the proposal is likely to be implemented ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS) : (a) and (b) The matter is under active consideration.

(c) and (d) Extension of Doordarshan programmes to cover larger areas within India through satellite does have a spill over in neighbouring countries where such programmes can be received on TV with an appropriate dish antenna.

.. Access of U.S. Film Industry to the Country

1257. DR. SANJAYA SINH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BRODCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have entered into an agreement with the U.S. Film Industry for market access for U.S. films into this country; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Exhibition of Uncertified Video Films

1258. DR SANJAYA SINH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have recently been reports to the effect that uncertified video films are being shown in many States/ Union Territories;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

<e) what steps the State/Union Territory Governments have taken during the last

three years till date for strict implementation of the penal provisions in the Cinematograph Act, 1952 in this regard ?

THE "DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS)i (a) and (b) There have been news-paper rej>orts from time to time regarding screening of uncertified video films in con-travention of the provisions of the Cine-matograph Act, 1952. Such contraventions include exhibiting portions not shown to the Central Board of Film Certification or showing portions ordered by the Board for deletion or showing bits of a blue film.

(c) The responsibility for enforcing the penal provisions of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 rests with the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. They have'been requested, time and again. to strictly enforce the legal provisions. On 18-12-1991, a letter was sent to the Chief Ministers/Administrators of the States/ Union Territories, as the case may be. The replies received from them indicate that most of them have, in turn, taken up the matter with the law enforcing agencies for appropriate action in this regard.

Imposition of Licence fees on users of hired transponders

1259. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of transponders hired so for, from foreign satellites by the Indian agencies;

(b) what are the details thereof;

(c) whether transmission and receipts from such transponders affect the earnings of Doordarshan;

(d) if so, to what extent and what is the remedy for the same; and

(e) whether Government propose any schefinto impose certain amount as licence fees on transponder users to bring revenue to Government ?

93-t/J(D)29RSS—12

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) and (b) Government have eo far hired, for varying periods of time, transponders from the following agencies:

(i) INTELSAT . .	—3/4
(ii) INTERSPUTNIK .	—1
(iii) ARABSAT . . .	—12

(c) These transponders have been hired for use by Government agencies.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Norms for Coverage of Political Activities

1260. SHRI MENTAY PADMANA-BHAM: Will the Minister of INFORMA TION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have received any reports from the public protesting against bias of the Hyderabad Doordarshan Kendra; and

(b) what are the norms laid down by Government for the coverage of the acti vities of political parties by Doordarshan?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) No, Sir.

(b) While telecasting news in respect of various political parties the following guidelines and norms are followed by Doordarshan:—

(i) Political activities are noticed based on their newsworthiness.

(ii) Unbiased reporting of the news in respect of all the political parties.

(iii) Coverage of differing view points in the same buHetin to the extent possible.

Coverage of important political programmes

1261. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pteasea to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have laid down specific norms regarding